

What is Claimed Is:

1. A method for welding together at least two components of a disk drive head suspension, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) positioning a first component having an edge and a major surface with respect to a second component having a surface with a perimeter, such that the surface of the second component contacts the major surface of the first component, and the perimeter of the surface of the second component extends beyond the edge of the first component; and
- b) forming an edge weld at the edge, such that the edge weld extends beyond the edge onto the first and second components.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein step b) further includes generally centering the edge weld on the edge of the first component.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of forming the edge weld includes applying welding energy from a side of the components on which the edge is located.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of forming the edge weld includes applying welding energy from a side of the components that is opposite a side of the components on which the edge is located.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of forming the edge weld includes applying laser energy.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of forming the edge weld includes spot welding.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of forming the edge weld includes causing a portion of both the first and second components to flow.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a flexure and the other of the first and second components comprises a load beam.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a spring region and the other of the first and second components comprises a load beam.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a spring region and the other of the first and second components comprises a mounting region.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a spring region and the other of the first and second components comprises a flexure.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a stiffener and the other of the first and second components comprises a flexure.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a stiffener and the other of the first and second components comprises a load beam.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second components is fabricated from stainless steel.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second components is an integrated lead suspension component.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components comprises an integrated lead flexure and the other of the first and second components comprises a load beam.

17. The method of claim 1 further comprising simultaneously affixing at least a third component to at least one of the first and second components by the edge weld.

18. The method of claim 2 wherein the step of forming the edge weld includes applying laser energy.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a flexure and the other of the first and second components comprises a load beam.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the flexure and the load beam are fabricated from stainless steel.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the step of forming the edge weld includes applying the laser energy from a side of the assembled components opposite a side with the exposed edge at which the edge weld is formed.

22. The method of claim 18 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a stiffener and the other of the first and second components comprises a load beam.

23. The method of claim 19 further comprising simultaneously affixing at least a third component to at least one of the flexure and the load beam.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the third component comprises a spring region.

25. The method of claim 23 wherein the third component comprises a stiffener.

26. A disk drive head suspension assembly including a first component having an edge and a major surface, and a second component having a surface with a perimeter, with the first and second components attached together by at least one weld made by the steps of:

- a) positioning the first component with respect to the second component such that the surface of the second component contacts the major surface of the first component, and the perimeter of the surface of the second component extends beyond the edge of the first component; and
- b) forming an edge weld at the edge, such that the edge weld extends beyond the edge onto the first and second components.

27. The disk drive head suspension assembly of claim 26 wherein step b) further includes forming the edge weld by applying laser energy.